

DRUGS POLICY

Policy area

Staff

Statutory regulation

Misuse of Drugs Act 971

Psychoactive Substances Act 2016

SLT Lead

Head (Robert Lobatto)

Last Updated

March 2023

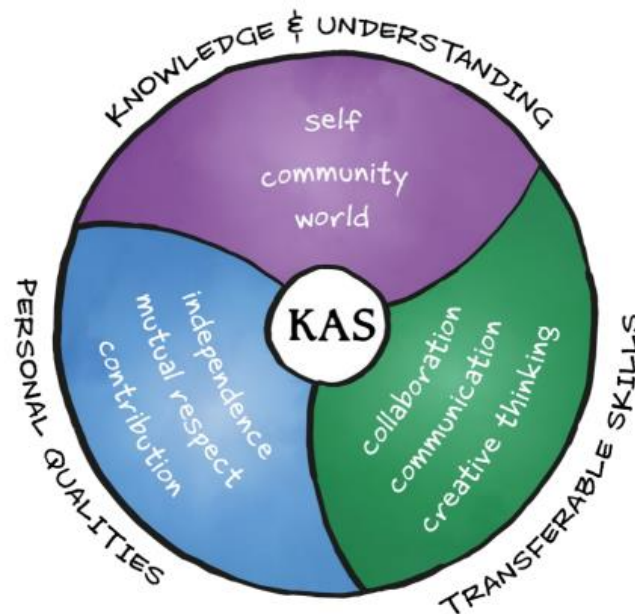
Last Approved

January 2023

Next review

January 2026

THE KING ALFRED SCHOOL DRUGS POLICY



All King Alfred policies relating to students are informed by our vision of a holistic education, which is represented by the graphic above.

The Drugs policy connects to two main areas.

In Knowledge and understanding, we aim for all our students to develop a strong understanding about how drugs impact the body and mind in the short and long term (self), about the factors that can influence and encourage drug-taking behaviours (community), and about how the drugs industry functions and exploits people on a global level (world).

In Personal Qualities, we aim to support students to make wise and sensible decisions about their own behaviour (Independence), to understand the importance of operating within school and community boundaries (mutual respect), and to appreciate their role in creating a safe and supportive environment (contribution).

1. INTRODUCTION

The ready and easy availability of drugs means that drugs present challenges for many of our students.

As a school, we have three roles to play

- a) Education : supporting our students to make good and wise decisions in relation to this issue.
- b) Disciplinary responses to drug use at KAS : making it very clear that any involvement with drugs at KAS or at KAS events, is crossing a boundary which is fundamentally incompatible with membership of the school.

- c) Support : supporting students who become involved with drugs out of school, and who are actively seeking support to change.

1. SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy is principally concerned with illegal drugs, as defined by legislation such as the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971, and the Psychoactive Substances Act, 2016.

The policy also applies to **alcohol**, so-called 'legal highs', and legal substances and prescription medicines when used for recreational purposes because of their effects on the body.

It applies at all times on the school site, in its immediate vicinity and whenever the School is in loco parentis (for example, throughout the school day and whenever staff are responsible for students on school trips or at school events).

2. EDUCATION TO SUPPORT DECISION-MAKING

PSHE aims to develop self-regulation in students and enable them to make positive and informed choices. This applies to all areas of the PSHE curriculum where we want to empower students to make good and wise decisions.

Drugs education is therefore an important strand within our PSHE programme. We cover information on tobacco, alcohol, illegal substances and also the new generation of legal substances which are taken for their body altering properties.

This is delivered both in-house and through external speakers who have direct experience of drug use and abuse.

We also seek to educate parents through workshops and talks, which will be held on a regular basis.

3. DISCIPLINARY RESPONSE TO INVOLVEMENT WITH DRUGS

KAS must always be drug-free. This applies both to the school site, and any events associated with KAS including camps and trips off-site.

This is necessary in order to ensure the health and safety of all in the school community, which includes Reception children of four years of age and upwards.

It is also important in relation to the school's ethos. Drug misuse breaches not only this policy but also the principle of mutual respect.

Although there may be additional examples, drug free means:

- Illegal drugs, experimental substances or equipment connected to drugs must not be brought into School, at any time
- They must not be in someone's possession or used at any time during the school day, which includes the journey to and from school, break times, lunchtimes and during non-contact lessons

- They must not be shared with others, passed on to others, or sold to others, at any time during the school day, which includes the journey to and from school, break times, lunchtimes and during non-contact lessons
- All of the above apply to any activities connected to the school, such as trips and camps, as well as within the school itself.

Investigation and suspension

Any potential breach of the policy will be fully and thoroughly investigated in line with our normal procedures.

The School will investigate any well-founded information about involvement with drugs or substances and may need to search bags, lockers or outer clothing and take possession of personal property. Any such actions will be handled in a sensitive manner and will be in line with our search policy.

Additionally, if a student is suspected of taking drugs or being under the influence of drugs whilst in its care, the school may exercise the right to require that student to undergo a drugs' screen at the medical room. This may take the form of a saliva swab test, a urine test, or a hair follicle test. The decision to authorise a screen can only be taken by the Head, the Deputy Head or Assistant Head Well-being & Pastoral care.

If a student is found to have breached the **boundaries set out in this policy, then they will be suspended** for a period of time 'in the first instance' until all investigations are complete.

Consequences and decision-making process

An offence of **sharing, dealing or supplying** drugs will lead to removal from the school. Whereas using drugs puts oneself at risk, dealing drugs places others at risk, and therefore this is the highest level of offence.

If a student is found to be in **possession or to have used** drugs or drug equipment, then they can expect to lose their place at the school.

The decision-making process in these cases will also be directed by the 'Student Removal' procedure. If relevant, this may take account of other policies which were breached at the same time. (e.g. mutual respect, safeguarding, behaviour policy). If there are truly exceptional circumstances*, such as where a student has been coerced into such an action, this will be taken into account before a final decision is made.

The school will liaise and cooperate with the **police** as appropriate where it is suspected a criminal offence has taken place.

*In some exceptional circumstances, a different decision may be made. There may instead be an extensive rehabilitation package of measures. This would be likely to include exclusion, regular drug testing for an extended period of time, pastoral support, a programme of community service and a suspension of rights. The student and family will need to be fully invested in this approach for it to be considered. Any repeat will lead to removal from the school.

4. SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS PRO-ACTIVELY SEEKING SUPPORT TO CHANGE

Disclosure

There may be a situation where a student discloses that they have an involvement with drugs and is seeking support to change their behaviour.

In such a case, the school will seek to support for that individual. However, this will be conditional upon the individual

- disclosing the issue before an investigation into drug misuse has begun
- engaging fully with the support plan

To make a disclosure, students can approach an appropriate member of staff, for example the School Nurse, School Counsellors and pastoral staff. Disclosures will be passed on the Head, the Assistant Head of Well-being and Pastoral care, and the DSL.

Confidentiality is kept wherever possible but cannot be maintained if there is a risk of significant harm to a student or if the nature of an incident requires police or other agencies to be informed. Families will be informed unless there is a compelling reason not to do so.

Parents and peers can also raise their concerns, which may then lead to a disclosure by the individual concerned.

Support plan

The aim of any plan is to support the individual to end their involvement with drugs. This will always be multi-faceted and will vary from case to case. However, it will include the following features

- pastoral support. This may be provided internally through the pastoral team/counsellor, or may require the input of external professionals
- joined up approach between the school and the family
- regular drug testing carried out at school by the School Nurse, paid for by the student's family
- regular review of progress at a senior level

Monitoring and Review

Through the review process, the senior staff involved will assess the degree of progress made by the individual.

If they are satisfied that the individual is making good progress, then the plan will be adapted over time, with the intention that eventually it will no longer being necessary.

If they are concerned that the drug misuse is continuing, and /or having an impact on others in the community, then they will consider the future of the student at KAS by using the 'Student Removal' procedure.

5. OTHER

Prescription drugs only may be brought into school by prior arrangement with the School Nurse. Upper School students need to notify the School Nurse if they are bringing prescribed medication into school and must take the responsibility for keeping it on their person at all

times. Students may carry their own inhalers and epipens as long as the school has been notified by parents.

Alcohol for students is only permitted for our oldest students at designated formal events (such as the Year 13 leavers Prom). This will be at the discretion of the Head, and in all cases, any distribution of alcohol will be limited and carefully managed.

KAS is a **non-smoking site** – please see KAS smoking policy.

6. REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years.